(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) expected reserves of wheat with the Food Corporation of India on March 31, 2007 after attaining the target of procurement and fulfilling the requirements of PDS and other like schemes?

THE MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) Yes, Sir. As per the Second Advance estimates given by the Department of Agriculture & Cooperation, wheat production in crop year 2005-06 is expected to be 73.06 million tonnes as against 72 million tonnes last year.

(b) and (c) As procurement of wheat is open-ended, there is no fixed target for procurement of wheat. However, based on the estimates given by the wheat procuring States, it is estimated that there is likely to be wheat procurement of 162 lakh tonnes in Rabi Marketing Season 2006-07.

(d) In the year 2006-07, at the current level of scale of issue, the wheat offtake is likely to be around the same level as in the current year. If wheat procurement is as per estimates given by the States, then at the existing level of offtake, wheat stocks at the end of March 2007 is likely to be around 18 lakh tonnes.

AIIMS like Hospital in Bhopal

†*193. SHRI P.K. MAHESHWARI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Government have a plan to set up an AIIMS like hospital in Bhopal and if so, the details of its present status;

(b) the difficulties being faced in setting up the same at the earliest; and

(c) the extent of assistance being provided by the State Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. ANBUMANI RAMDOSS): (a) to (c) Under Pradhan Mantri Swasthya Suraksha Yojana (PMSSY) *inter alia* there is a proposal to set up an AIIMS like Institution at Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh. The State Government required to provide minimum of 100 acres of land for the institution, free

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

of cost and also arrange for provision of water, electricity and approach road. The project cost for setting up an AIIMS like Institution is estimated at Rs. 280 crores (approx.), which is proposed to be met by the Central Government.

The PMSSY Scheme has been cleared by the Expenditure Finance Committee and Committee of Secretaries (COS) and is being processed for placing before the Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) for approval. The proposed Institution is expected to become operational after three years from the date of approval of the CCEA.

The Government of Madhya Pradesh has provided the requisite land for setting up of AIIMS Bhopal. The construction of boundary wall around the site at Bhopal has almost been completed.

Indebtedness of farmers in Punjab

*194. SHRI EKANATH K. THAKUR: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the fact that Punjab is one of the richest States and has most of its farmers (65.4 per cent) in the debt;

(b) whether farmers in the State are not just using the crop loans for farm related purposes but on a number of other things and ultimately find themselves in a quagmire when they are unable to pay the loans back; and

(c) if so, whether Government have made any investigation to find out the reasons that led to increase in their indebtedness?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) As per the National Sample Survey Organization (NSSO) Report No. 498 on "Indebtedness of Farmer Households" released in May, 2005, 65.4 per cent of farmer households in Punjab were indebted.

(b) The National Sample Survey Organization (NSSO) Report No. 498 referred to in Part (a) indicates the following purpose-wise pattern of distribution of outstanding loan (including crop loan) taken by farmer households in Punjab:-

* 26.4 per cent for capital expenditure in farm business;
* 36.0 per cent for current expenditure in farm business;
* 4.4 per cent for non-farm business;